

1421 Dandridge Street  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401  
July 26, 1970

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am sending you this clipping about Laurel, Md. to show that it really isn't quite like you remember. The county to which it belongs is now a prime example of 'urban sprawl' and is the subject of a whole series of articles about the causes of such situations. Say-it seems that there is little point in visiting the town since it is identical to all the other suburbs of D.C. I think we might go through it next weekend, though, as we are going to a Peter, Paul, and Mary concert in Rockville, Md.

Yesterday we went up to D.C. and went shopping for warm clothes in the downtown department stores. I bought several shirts and some underwear. After shopping, we went out to the Georgetown district and saw the movie Catch 22 which I didn't think was very good. I was uncomfortable yesterday (today also) as the high was 93<sup>2</sup> and the humidity was 85%. We just finished dinner a few minutes ago - having prepared a leg of lamb which turned out yucky well. We are just going to watch T.V. tonight and try to keep cool.

The weeks go by very quickly since my project has become very interesting. We are developing an electronic device for ship radar systems and it is going to be almost completely my responsibility. A technician comes in three days a week and we have been testing various components before assembling the entire system. Also, I am writing down the equations for the circuit and am going to write a computer program to solve them. I am glad to be able to do this as working on the computer makes the time pass rapidly. Eventually our device will have to be tested and I just hope I won't have to go out on a ship to do it. That would not

for several months in any case.

Since you have been going fishing I hope you have noticed the warnings about mercury pollution of the streams. There has been some talk about banning the sale of fish from polluted streams which are present in every part of the country. If I were you I wouldn't eat any fish you catch yourselves. With all the pollution it won't be long before there is nothing to eat at all.

I don't remember if I told you that we are going down to Ashwood over Labor Day. Hopefully many of the people of the city will be going out of town and it won't be too crowded. We will stay in a holiday inn and just relax by the pool. Also, we will visit some of the nearby historical sites. After we have lived here a while both Vickie and I will be experts on the Civil War and possibly the Revolutionary period as well. Now that we are more settled we like it here quite a bit and will be very content to stay for two or three years. Right now it is a little quiet in our neighborhood with nobody about our age. When school starts there will be more excitement and maybe we will meet some interesting people. There are a lot of activities on campus during the school year and we intend to make the most of them. Actually, Frederickburg is a lot like Cornwallis in the summertime; pretty sleepy. The fall will also bring a welcome change in the weather. Well, goodbye for now -

Jim